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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have their articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Canada's Naval Programme.

The resolution of Canada to build four Dreadnoughts is full of interest in a certain aspect of it which addresses ourselves. As an expression of filial piety toward the mother country it is admirable, but as an adjunct to our navy it is of agreeable significance. Canada needs a navy only in so far as she may deem that of the United States to be inadequate for her protection.

The defence against foreign aggression of the eastern and western coasts of Canada is of equal concern to us with the defence of our own coasts. It is not possible to imagine an attack on Canada from without to which we could for a moment be indifferent. We should naturally wish to crush it at its inception. If these sentiments are shared by Canada her present naval ambition can prevent itself only in an aspect that is both graceful and propitious.

The Constitution and the Compromiser.

Interesting and intricate legal complications seem to attend the tenure of office of the State Comptroller whom Governor HUGHES will name to succeed the Hon. CHARLES H. GAUS, whose death has created a vacancy in that office. The Albany Evening Journal, the organ of the Hon. WILLIAM BARNES, Jr., asserts that the appointee of the Governor will hold office only until the Legislature meets and that the Legislature will then proceed to appoint a successor to serve until January 1, 1911. On the other hand, the general impression among laymen seems to have been that the Governor's appointee would remain in office until January 1, 1911.

The whole question, fundamentally, must turn upon the interpretation placed upon Section 5 of Article X. of the Constitution, which provides:

"The Legislature shall provide for filling vacancies in office, and in case of elective offices no person appointed to fill a vacancy shall hold his office by virtue of such appointment longer than the commencement of the political year next succeeding the first annual election after the happening of the vacancy."

The point at issue is this: Does the Constitution in its reference to annual elections mean an annual election at which a vacancy could be filled, or does it mean a mere moment of time? The Hon. CHARLES H. GAUS died on October 31, seventeen days after the latest date on which a vacancy in a State elective office could be filled at the recent general election, but two days before the actual holding of the election. If the Constitutional provision be interpreted as referring to an election at which a successor could be chosen, Mr. BARNES is mistaken in his contention; if it be interpreted as merely fixing a date he is correct.

The action of the Legislature in providing a method of filling vacancies, as directed by the Constitution, however, gives color to the view that it understood the Constitution to mean a possible election day—that is, one on which the vacancy could be filled. This is shown by the provision making October 14 the last day on which the vacancy could occur and be filled at the succeeding election. This is contained in Section 4 of Chapter 680 of the Revised Statutes, which provides:

"A vacancy occurring before October 15 in any year in an office authorized to be filled at a general election shall be filled at the general election next thereafter."

The Governor will appoint a State Comptroller to serve until January 1, 1910, or January 1, 1911, as the case may be, under Sections 30 and 31 of Chapter 681 of the Revised Statutes, which provide respectively:

"When a vacancy occurs or exists . . . in the office of . . . Comptroller . . . while the Legislature is in session the two houses thereof by joint ballot shall appoint a person to fill such actual vacancy."

"If a vacancy shall occur, with no provision to fill the same, if the office be elective, the Governor shall appoint a person to execute the duties thereof until the Legislature be filled by an election."

The provision that the Governor shall appoint and his appointee hold office until an election is equally significant, because of the use of the word "appoint" in the case of choice by the Legislature. Apparently the Legislature did not contemplate the intervention of its appointment between the Governor's selection and election day, because it describes its own act as appointment, not election. Here again the construction placed by Mr. BARNES seems forced and out of the spirit of the language of the law.

An even more interesting question arises, however, Article IX., Section 4, provides:

"The political year and the legislative term shall begin on the first day of January, and the Legislature shall assemble on the Wednesday next following January 1."

January 1 of next year falls on Sat-

urday. If the term of the Comptroller appointed by the Governor be held to expire on December 31, under Mr. BARNES' interpretation of the Constitution, there yet remain four days in 1910 in which the Legislature is not in session and in which it would appear that the Governor may, under the Public Officers act, appoint another man or reappoint his first selection. Apparently, also, this would give the appointee a fresh lease of office lasting until January 1, 1911, or until the end of the official year after the annual election of next year.

Precedent, of course, has too important a bearing upon the matter to warrant any *ipse dixit* on the part of the layman. Yet the foregoing survey of the language of the law as well as the Constitution tends to indicate that Mr. BARNES is mistaken. But even if he were right in his constitutional construction, he has then to surmount the difficulty of the Public Officers act, which provides for appointment by the Governor when the Legislature is not in session and the constitutional provision that the Legislature shall assemble on the first Wednesday of the year, thus giving the Governor four days in which to exercise the prerogative of appointment in a new year and thereby to escape any consequences of any interpretation placed on the constitutional section Mr. BARNES cites. An interesting legal fight is in any event assured if the Legislature seeks to assert the right Mr. BARNES claims for it and appoint a Comptroller to succeed the Governor's appointee.

When the Executive Resumes Its Functions—For Consideration.

New, automatic, self-registering, inviolable and incorruptible scales are to be substituted for those now in use at this port and at Boston. This, it is explained with an ingenuousness and a simplicity almost appalling, will do away with all possibility of wrongdoing by the chartered and privileged thieves whose welfare is Mr. WILLIAM LOEB's special care.

The combination of WILLIAM LOEB and HERBERT PARSONS as a moral proposition is as incredible as it is astounding. Is this town conscious of the insult and the outrage to which it is subjected? When it was first proposed to supplant Collector FOWLER, probably because of his pestiferous meddling with matters that only concerned his betters and the Sugar Trust, we protested when LOEB's name was mentioned. We denounced his selection as an intolerable insult to this community. Our feeling in the matter seemed only to confirm the Executive in its determination to impose him upon us.

It is but just to admit in mitigation that the President appears to have been under some grievous compulsion. It was currently accepted that LOEB, whose unrestricted proficiency in vicarious mendacity had saddled his gifted master with a prodigious burthen of gratitude, was to be recompensed with a seat in the new Cabinet. In this Mr. TAFT was most loath to acquiesce and his reluctance was accentuated by one of his most valued and trusted counsellors who did not hesitate to indicate the startling discrepancy between LOEB's stature and the standard desirable for Cabinet use. However, he was relieved by the discovery that master and man would be assuaged by the Collectorship of New York, a solution infinitely grateful to Mr. TAFT and pregnant with nausea for this community.

We have bowed humbly to our ignominy, conscious that the President, too, had his claims for commiseration. We feel the equal of any in our capacity for resignation, but our limitations are too narrow and we protest.

Our All Big Gun Ships.

This is indeed the day of big things in the United States navy. Two super-Dreadnoughts, the Delaware and North Dakota, are under trial and the largest dry dock in the world is building at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The Delaware has slightly exceeded expectations in the matter of speed, and the North Dakota is so much better than specifications that exultation over her performances is fully justified. The North Dakota was to be a 21 knot all big gun ship, and she proves to be of 22 knots or better. Her achievement looks like a triumph for the Parsons turbines with which she is fitted, for the Delaware, which previously held the record for battleships so quickly beaten, has engines of the reciprocating type.

In normal displacement the British battleship Neptune, recently launched, was to be as big a ship or perhaps slightly larger (20,250 tons) than the North Dakota, but the American battleship is almost ready for commission, and it will be some time before the Neptune flies the flag. The fact will hardly be disputed that the United States can point to the Delaware and North Dakota as the most formidable battleships afloat. At the same time Great Britain has in the original Dreadnought, the Bellerophon, the Temeraire and the Superb, all in commission, and with the addition of the powerful and fleet battleship cruisers Invincible, Inflexible and Indomitable, also in commission, a well rounded fleet of all big gun ships. The necessities of the case require Great Britain to be always in the van, so that when the Florida and Utah, sister ships to the Delaware and North Dakota, are completed Great Britain will have reinforced her all big gun fleet with the Neptune, Colossus and Hercules, and perhaps another battleship still unnamed, and she will be rapidly laying down other big ships to maintain her superiority over Germany.

In the recent armor and gun test in France when the obsolete battleship Jena was used as a target it was demon-

strated that the protection of the Jena could not resist the projectiles of big guns. The result ought to be gratifying to American constructors, for the Delaware and North Dakota are much better armored than British ships of the Bellerophon class, the Americans having a uniform thickness of eleven inches amidships, at the ends and on the deck slopes, as compared with eleven amidships, six and four at the ends and two and a half inches on the deck slopes for the British ships. In battery power there is not much to choose and perhaps the difference in speed will not prove to be striking, but the uniform and thicker protection of the American battleships ought to count mightily in action.

It may properly be regretted that in the United States navy we have no swift and powerful armored cruisers like the Invincibles of the British navy. In armor they are much inferior to the Delaware type and have two 12 inch guns less in their main battery, but their speed of 25 knots and over is a factor to be reckoned with. They are faster than our crack armored cruisers the North Carolina and Montana, greatly superior to them in battery power and should be more than a match for any battleship of the ante-Dreadnought period.

Did Taft Fail in Virginia?

Really we can see no reason in the now promulgated theory that "TAFT has failed in Virginia." What we should like to know is: What did the President attempt in Virginia to justify the present rumor that he has "failed"? It does not seem to us that anything of that kind can be found in the results. If it is true, as reported, that he appealed to Congressmen SLEMP to accomplish certain results, the returns show in great abundance that SLEMP didn't accomplish them, whatever they may have been; but who is SLEMP that the President should have selected him to work a miracle in Virginia?

Mr. SLEMP is said to be a very bright young man—the son of his father, by the way—who inherited the seat from Big Stone Gap in southwest Virginia. He seems to occupy in that State very much the place once filled in Maryland by the Hon. SYDNEY E. MUDD. In other words, he is energetic, "smart," with a talent for placing his workers and dependents, as always happens under Republican Administrations in States where Republican Representatives are lonely and the patronage unduly concentrated; but Mr. SLEMP is no leader, at least in the sense supposed to be established in Mr. TAFT's mind. He appears to be popular in his forlorn mountain district, and on the strength of his loneliness he has a certain influence over the organization elsewhere. Virginia is Democratic, however, and the old Whig ferment hard at work, and its redemption to Republican policies and principles must be achieved, if at all, through agencies that are now part of its inner life. Into that life Congressman SLEMP does not enter and can never enter.

If Mr. TAFT wants to convert Virginia he must work through the instrumentalities that Virginia recognizes, and they are numerous and efficient; but we put no faith in the otherwise alluring story that he leaned on SLEMP and got failure for his pains.

A Text of Gold.

The reports of the President's voluminous utterances have yielded nothing worthier of selection, exhibition and preservation than this, from Savannah:

"My friends, that leads me up to one little sermon, and that is the wisdom and necessity of following the law as it is. I know that sometimes in the heat of enthusiasm of reform there is an impatience with legal limitations and statutes that seem to be directed against that reform, or to prevent its immediate accomplishment, such as to lead us to disregard it or to ignore it. I do not think, and I am sure you will agree with me, that is the best way of getting rid of a legal limitation that interferes with progress. The best way is to have the people understand that limitation ought to be removed and that the statutes of our Government ought to conform so far as may be to our highest ideals and ambitions, but that the first thing that we have got to do after arousing the people to the necessity of change is to change the law and not rely upon the Executive himself to ignore the statutes and follow a law unto himself because it is supposed to be the law of higher morality. Therefore let us first make the laws to accord to our desires and our ambitions and then follow them."

This we understand to be a close if unconscious paraphrase of the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Kansas vs. Colorado, dismissing that doctrine of Federal power which the Solicitor-General, the Hon. HENRY M. HOTT of Pennsylvania, propounded to the Court in the interest of Rooseveltian progress.

Two Nutmeg Prophecies.

Since the Hon. BEAUFORT BEEBE of Lee, Mass., departed from a world which lost in him the noblest of the Weather Wise we have looked sadly and vainly for one worthy to wear his robe. ANDREW JACKSON DE VOR, the Hackensack Wizard, is endeared to us indeed by old use and wont. A generation ago he was looking into the seeds of blizzards and foretelling the early, middle and latter rain. In no ingratitude to that divine do we aver that the Jerseys have weathered of their own more than enough to keep a school of soothsayers working overtime. The Hon. ROBERT BAILY THOMAS covers finely a continental field, but even he is of little use to us in Alaska. MOORE of Washington cannot always be depended upon to go wrong. Where shall we look for absolute safety and comfort?

Hopes beckon to us from Nutmegia. The Hon. HORACE JOHNSON of Middle Haddam and the Hon. HENRY HEDGES of Middletown are venerated throughout New England. They can tell the wind a week ahead and make it come to order, we dare say, by whistling; and their instruments, whether physical or mental, for registering changes of temperature are such that the Hon. CHARLES HOPKINS CLARK of Hartford, for instance, can't eat a plate of pistache ice cream without affecting the sensitive machinery in Middletown and Middle Haddam.

Next Friday the Connecticut warlocks

will have a tug of warlockry. A president is to be inducted into office at Wesleyan University, an event not to be accomplished, of course, without the benign presence of Mr. TAFT. Mr. HEDGES, who has every reason to wish that the day be as fair as the Governor's Foot Guard, swears it will be fair. The Middle Haddamite swears that it will be stormy. One serpent must eat the other up. Next Saturday we shall salute the winner, the crowned forecaster of Connecticut. Can he or anybody take the place of the ever to be lamented BEAUFORT BEEBE?

In the newspaper accounts of Mr. TAFT's visit to Birmingham, Ala., there is a dearth of references to General RUTUS N. RHODES of that city which compels us, however reluctantly, to suppose that he was securely muzzled. We hear about all sorts of forthcoming persons, even Governor COMER, Secretary DICKINSON seems to have been in the wit of the occasion, but not so much as a bubble from the General. Altogether the thing passed off quite pleasantly in Birmingham.

The New Jersey game wardens are reported to be "busy these days seeing to it that no one kills a buck except on Wednesday and that no one kills a doe at any time." Several arrests have been made in the neighborhood of May's Landing. They do things differently in Vermont. In that State does can be killed in the open season, so we read that a teacher on his way to school in Windham county shot a doe and that a rural free delivery carrier while in the performance of his duty "hugging the mails" also brought down a doe. In Massachusetts any one at any time may shoot a deer that takes a mouthful of any crop, and it is reported that one mountain farmer has potted fifteen deer during the last summer and that another victim slew a deer and put his damage at 15 cents, which was reduced to 5 cents by a commission sitting at an expense of \$40 to the Commonwealth. It follows that in Massachusetts the open season lasts 365 days.

The Empire State of the South has the greatest land area of any State east of the Mississippi River—Georgia, that is.

Statistically true, but why boast so much when humble Florida, with her 58,850 square miles, is such a close second?

The Government has just issued a thrilling volume on "The Life History of the Cow Tick." It is a mighty serious business for the cow.

All virtuous men will rejoice to learn that a bad boy of 10 has been sentenced to a prison term of six years. He will come out of prison peculiarly skilled in crime and entirely beyond reformation. Starting at a tender age with these advantages, he should rank high among the enemies of order and prove a source of great danger and expense to the State.

SAVAGE tore their line at will.—From a report of football practice on Yale field.

An opening, instead of an open, game.

I hope you do not think out in Chicago that I am contentous or quarrelsome. I would go ten blocks out of my way to avoid any kind of a quarrel.—Major-nick GATNOR.

Most people would go more than ten blocks out of their way to avoid GATNOR.

On the Deck at the Piræus.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: It may be inferred from the following extract from Plutarch's essay entitled "Of Inconstancy into Things Impertinent" that there were collectors of the port even in the day.

It is not ill taken, if the searchers and officers of the customs do inspect goods openly imported, but only when, with a design of being vexatious and troublesome, they rip up the unsuspecting packets of private managers; and yet even this they are by law authorized to do, and it is sometimes by their loss if they do not.—MORALS, I volume II, page 438.

BROOKLYN, November 4. W. B.

The Flowering Japanese Style in the State Department.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Referring to the editorial article "The Bond of Brotherhood" in today's Sun I wish to state the allegation on the part of the Taunton Gazette is not "invention or apocryph." I enclose you the original "fact" addressed to me, in response to an inquiry in which the address of the communication read:

"The Secretary of State, Washington, D. C."

"Honorable Sir,"

New York, November 4. W. F.

It is requested that all communications upon official matters forwarded to the Department of State should be addressed to:

"The Honorable Secretary of State, Washington."

The New Inquisition.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Dress is a substitute for religious bigotry. When a man can't think he derives some satisfaction from criticising those who are poorly dressed. We have an inquisition which is known as "Society." The inquisition of Fashion condemns the unfashionable.

New York, November 5. E. G. BACON.

The Wise Man of Beaufort.

From the Catholic Standard and Times.

I mind the day I went away, away from Beaufort town.

My passage money 'in me purse an' little else beside.

These two strong hands I meant was day to lay on Fortune's frown.

An' what the devil was the use of her till it was smilin' wide.

Not that among the Kerry hills could such a task be done.

Not there where freedom's self had set the seven of Not with each day, from the risin' to the settin' of the sun.

As like the wan to follow as the wan that went before.

Where every man trod their fathers' heels contentedly an' dreamed.

Nor ever strove for greater wealth or knowin'—Than blessed the master of the school—John Kearney, who was dead.

The wisest an' the richest man in all o' Beaufort town.

With hopes an' fears these many years I've toiled in foreign lands.

An' cheek by jowl with Poverty trudged on behind the plough.

But these two strong hands o' mine, these bare, work hardened hands.

That plucked the frown from Fortune's brow are dimmed with wearin' an' now.

An' knowledge deeper than the kind that e'er is taught by books in the school.

I've gained through the passin' years within this grizzled head.

All ready there for instant use whatever need.

Small wonder, then, that I, for wealth an' wisdom, would smile a penny smile at him that thought o' the rein.

Of Master Kearney there at home that all the neighbors named.

The wisest an' the richest man in all o' Beaufort town.

To-day I roam where once was home. Back here in Beaufort town.

I walk the old familiar ways, but O the bitter For out o' town with everything I wander up an' down.

A stranger to the neighbor folk whose very speech is strange.

The old wide world I've sought until it yielded me its gold.

Has the mark upon me, an' it will not let me rest.

I look with sorrow on the hills that never more Contentment for the restless heart that beats in mine.

An' so for all me wealth an' fame, for all me peace of mind.

John Kearney, the little school, who prates of verb an' noun.

An' meekly for anything beyond his narrow acre of town.

Is still the wisest, richest man in all o' Beaufort town.

Up rising for E. M. Shepard.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: You are quite right in believing that some nook or corner in Brooklyn may harbor a man who would measure up to the requirements of the leadership of the Kings county Democracy in the present crisis. Edward M. Shepard measures up to the requirements of your article. He knows Brooklyn and Tammany too. He is scholarly, and for many years has been a close student of national, State and municipal affairs. Crafty district leader could not "jolly him," nor could lurid articles or flaming "news" in the Bery daily come away him in the least.

R. I. MCGOWAN.

BROOKLYN, November 3.

Kiggs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In a commission to one of the Governors of the Colonies issued by William III. in 1694, the Admiral he was given orders as to various matters, and among other things was charged with the responsibility for the royal fishes, which are designated as "sturgeons, whales, porpoises, dolphins, kigs and strapfish."

Will you please inform me what "kigs" were? New York, November 5. E. G. B.

Our Young Barbarians.

Kicker.—Don't you think football should be made general?

Bocker.—Yes, my boy has simply ruined his voice.

Brooklyn, November 3.

Next Friday the Connecticut warlocks

MR. HILL ON FOODS AND FARMS.

James J. Hill's analysis of present and prediction of future conditions in the November issue of *The World's Work* would be quite alarming were it not for his presentation of a practical remedy for both present and future evils. He shows not only "what we must do to be fed" but also how we may be fed more abundantly and more cheaply.

A point of possible weakness in Mr. Hill's argument is his evident belief that "the population of the United States will be 200,000,000 by about the middle of the present century, or in less than fifty years." If there shall come even an approach to the economic conditions against which he warns us the matter of population will be to a large degree self-regulating. If there comes a time when this country must import foodstuffs at high prices immigration will be effectively checked and there will be an outflow to lands where the struggle for existence is less strenuous. People will come to us from other lands only as long as there is plenty to eat at fairly reasonable prices, and there are many who would leave us if they could live more easily elsewhere.

The number of inhabitants in the United States fifty years hence presents no cause for serious anxiety to-day. The land is ample for the needs of the people. The establishment of conditions that will make possible the reasonably easy and comfortable existence of even 200,000,000 people in 1950. Mr. Hill with entire correctness places the burden of the solution of that problem with the farmers of the country. "The value of our annual farm product," he says, "is now about eight billions of dollars. It might easily be doubled. The farmers of the nation must save it in the future, just as they built it in the past. Such an undertaking would unquestionably be, as Mr. Hill declares, 'an act of patriotic service to the country, a contribution to the welfare of all humanity.' These are admirable phrases, but they are open to misconception.

The American farmers are not asked and will not be called upon to engage in a movement of merely charitable or patriotic service. It is required of them that they serve their fellow men while best serving themselves. The expansion and development of their industry to its highest stage is a matter which combines profits with patriotism and philanthropy. If that is charity and public spirit, let us hope that our farmers will make the most of it. As their bosoms swell with love of their country and kindness toward their fellow citizens, may their pockets fatten to the bursting point with the dollars that flow into them, provided that the rest of us get enough wheat and beef and eggs and potatoes and other things to eat, and get them at prices that will not impoverish us. We are certainly in the farmers' hands.

Mr. Hill's is a valuable contribution to movement of the which becomes more and more evident from year to year. The country needs more farmers and it needs a vast improvement in farm methods. The needed results can be brought about, as Mr. Hill says, "only by a general understanding and practice of agriculture as modern science and experiment work explain it; by such instruction as we now give in our technical schools and institutes for the trades." In other words, farming must be made a business instead of a mere manual industry.

THE OVERTURN IN CLINTON.

The O'Brien Machine a Victim of Tuesday's Election.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Tuesday was a notable day for northern New York politics, resulting as it did in breaking the O'Brien machine, which for over twelve years has dominated the Republican party in Clinton county. The election was in the nature of a landslide and showed the extent to which popular feeling had risen against the high handed methods practiced by the ring.

The anti-machine Republicans united in support of the Democratic candidate, with the exception of the County Clerk who was elected, John Trombly for member of Assembly, who stood for direct primaries, leading with a big majority.

In Plattsburg Dr. Andrew Seneca's election was assured early in the day, and Aldermen out of six went anti-machine by big majorities.

The Plattsburg Republican, since 1811 the organ of the Democracy in the county, reinforced by the Evening Star, the independent press of the county, has been the nation with it, led the campaign, which has been most picturesque as well as lively, and it has been going on now for three years.

In Essex county the O'Brien ring, which has been working hard to increase its share of the vote, was badly beaten.

PLATTSBURG, November 4.

The Decline of Bicycling.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: With sorrow I look, with many others, on the slow decrease of bicycling. It is a sport far too good to die and should not be forgotten. Twenty years ago nearly every one was cycling; now the bicycle is merely used by most people for convenience in getting about town.

Undoubtedly the greatest wound received by bicycling was struck by the automobile. What good is sitting all wrapped up in fur robes to riding along on a bicycle breathing in the pure country air and working to get somewhere? The automobile doesn't own the road and despite complaints nearly every car will steer out for a bicyclist. Anyhow, automobiles aren't everywhere, although an occasional one is seen.

There is nothing more interesting than a short bicycle ride. It timbers a person up (for the time being at least), and enables him to see some of the surrounding country in a different way. A puncture is almost a disaster, and the automobile pushing and pushing a nice hill, going down it like the light of a lamp post on an intoxicated man; it means a good restful coast (not that a post is a coast) to motorists.

Last but certainly not the least pleasure comes in the getting home. Um! What a meal you can eat. How good it feels to sit before the fire and smoke or exchange sentiments on the ride! Bicycling must not die!

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Uprising for E. M. Shepard.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: You are quite right in believing that some nook or corner in Brooklyn may harbor a man who would measure up to the requirements of the leadership of the Kings county Democracy in the present crisis. Edward M. Shepard measures up to the requirements of your article. He knows Brooklyn and Tammany too. He is scholarly, and for many years has been a close student of national, State and municipal affairs. Crafty district leader could not "jolly him," nor could lurid articles or flaming "news" in the Bery daily come away him in the least.

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THE NEW RULES FOOTBALL.

An Old Rugby Player Thinks the Element of Danger is Still Too Great.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I have read with much interest many letters in *The Sun* about the sad ending of the football game between West Point and Harvard, some suggesting that football be abolished and others maintaining that it is a fine, healthy sport and that such accidents are inevitable. It is argued by some that the game is healthy for both body and mind, not only hardening and training the body, but teaching the player to take knocks in good part. A game that entails serious injuries, a number of them permanent, to so many fine young men and boys and has so large a death roll cannot surely be called a "healthy game."

The main sports are a necessity in the training of young men and boys is practically admitted by all save a few "faddists," but the same results can be attained and young men turned out in as good condition in both mind and body when such sports and games are played with a minimum risk to life and limb.

After so many expressions of opinion chiefly from old stagers I may perhaps be considered an intruder for "butting in" on a subject in which I am not personally concerned. It has, however, occurred to me that as onlookers are often credited with seeing "the game" my remarks may not be taken altogether amiss.

On Saturday last it was my privilege to be one of the many spectators of the game at West Point. It was only the second match I had had a chance of seeing and therefore cannot pretend to understand the subtleties of the game, but being fully conversant